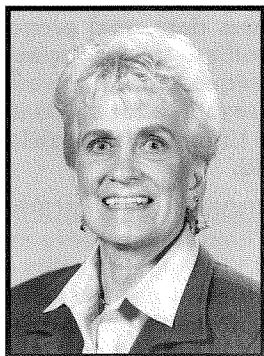


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator
Bev Hammerstrom
State Capitol • Lansing, MI 48913
1-888-477-8238
www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom

March 20, 2006



TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE *2006 Michigan Taxpayer's Guides* are now available at most township and city halls, libraries, post offices, and senior centers throughout the 17th Senate District. The booklet offers a summary of new tax laws, including state regulations on property taxes, homestead property tax credits, and farmland and open space tax credits. The publication is distributed each year in an effort to keep constituents informed of important changes that are necessary to file taxes correctly and to prevent delays in anticipated refunds. A sample tax form and phone numbers for additional assistance are also included. You can view the Michigan Taxpayer's Guide, as well as visit other helpful tax preparation links, on my website at www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom. If you would like to receive a Taxpayer's Guide by mail, please call my office, toll-free at 1-888-477-8238.

DID YOU KNOW? Michigan income taxpayers can voluntarily contribute \$5.00 or more to the Children's Trust Fund. Contributions are a key source of funding for child abuse/neglect prevention in your local community.

MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH The National Kidney Foundation has designated March as National Kidney Month and urges the public to schedule a visit with their healthcare professionals to prevent chronic kidney disease (CKD). Almost half of all Americans who have CKD are not aware of their condition, resulting in increased occurrence that can be prevented or maintained if detected early. Before an individual feels the onset of the symptoms of chronic kidney disease, his/her condition may very well have progressed to kidney failure. To avoid the progression to kidney failure, which can be treated by a kidney transplant or dialysis, it is essential that individuals get tested for chronic kidney disease early on. Individuals with a family history of diabetes, hypertension, or chronic kidney disease are urged to get tested because of an increased risk of developing CKD.

2005-2006 MICHIGAN MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE The Michigan Legislative Council and the Legislative Service Bureau are pleased to announce the publication of the 2005-2006 Michigan Manual. This state government yearbook, which was first produced in 1836, provides a wealth of information on the operations of each of the three branches of Michigan government. It presents a wide range of materials, encompassing historical information, biographies of elected officials, profiles of the state universities, primary and general election results, county officers, census data, and proposed constitutional amendments. Sometimes referred to as the "Red Book," the Michigan Manual profiles state agencies and many of the processes through which the people of this state govern themselves. This is a unique tool that provides access to information on virtually all aspects of state government, and it remains a valuable resource for students of Michigan. Copies of the Michigan Manual are available for \$25.00 each, and may be ordered through the Legislative Service Bureau Business Office, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536. Prepayment is required.

DEPLOYED NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS COULD SEE A TEMPORARY MODIFICATION IN CHILD-SUPPORT PAYMENTS The Michigan Senate recently introduced legislation which could allow National Guard and reserve members called to military duty to have a temporary reduction in child-support payments. Senate Bill 1128 would qualify military deployment as a "change in circumstance" and allow a National Guard or reserve member to pay an adjusted amount in child-support payments if the military member experiences a decrease in compensation. Currently, child-support payments may only be modified due to a "change in circumstance," and military deployment does not qualify as a change in circumstance. In order for the military member to receive a temporary child-support payment adjustment, he or she must provide proof of deployment date and compensation rate. Within 30 days of discharge from active duty, the military member would be required to notify the Friend of the Court to reinstate the previous amount paid in child support. SB 1128 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Families and Human Services.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov